

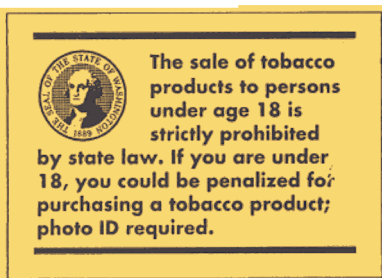
Know the Law:

Don't Sell Tobacco to Minors

In 1993, the Washington State Legislature passed the Minors' Access to Tobacco law. Selling or distributing tobacco to minors was already prohibited, but persons under 18 were still able to get tobacco products easily. So the Legislature passed the new law to restrict access and to provide enforcement.

How does the law affect retailers?

- All tobacco retailers must post warning signs at each point of sale. Signs are 5" X 7" size, bright yellow with black print:



Signs are available free of charge from the Washington State Liquor Control Board.

- Retailers must prominently display their license to sell tobacco.
- The law prohibits the sale of single cigarettes from an opened pack. Cigarettes must be sold in the original, unopened package with an affixed tax stamp.
- Retailers must check identification in all cases where there may be a question of age.

Retailers can be fined for violating this law:

1st Offense: **\$100**

2nd Offense: **\$300**

3rd Offense: **\$1,000 and six month license suspension**

4th Offense: **\$1,500 and 12 month license suspension**

The Liquor Control Board inspects tobacco retailers, investigates complaints, and issues citations.

How does the law affect retail clerks?

Retail clerks must check identification before selling tobacco products to anyone who may be under age 18.

Clerks can be fined for selling tobacco to a minor:

1st offense: **\$50**

Each subsequent offense: **\$100**

The Liquor Control Board offers training classes for retail clerks on how to check identification.

How does the law affect tobacco vending machines?

- Each vending machine must be licensed.
- Tobacco vending machines may be located only in areas where minors are prohibited, except for industrial worksites where minors are not employed.
- Vending machines must be located not less than 10 feet from all entrance or exit ways (retailers may request an exception from the Liquor Control Board only in cases where it is architecturally impractical to meet this requirement).

How does the law affect sampling and giving away free tobacco products?

- Any business or individual who provides tobacco samples must be licensed.
- Sampling is prohibited in most public places, and parks, public streets and sidewalks that are within 500 feet of a playground, school or other facility used primarily by children.
- Some cities and counties ban sampling entirely. Check your local ordinances.